S. E. H. GOSTICK,
BRARIAN, LEGISLATIVE BLDG.,
MONTON, ALBErta.

PROVINCIAL
DEC 14 1949
EDMONTON

VOL. 2 EDMONTON, DECEMBER 15, 1949 No. 7

Courses Supplied 50,000 Students By Correspondence School Branch

The Correspondence School Branch has supplied courses to more than 50,000 students during its quarter century of operation. In celebrating its silver jubilee the branch can display a fine record of achievement.

In 1946-47 the branch reached its peak when close to 17,800 pupils were enrolled. This year approximately 8,000 students are taking courses through the branch. Under normal conditions the average annual enrolment is expected to be about 5,000. The record enrolment was caused by the acute teacher shortage.

Although the branch has experienced its record year of activity in the past it still has an important duty to execute. The Correspondence School Branch will continue to take education to children in remote centres and those confined to their homes or hospitals. Approximately 1,000 children in grades one to six either live too far from a school or are physically unable to attend. It also serves hundreds of boys and girls whose schools are without teachers. Adults seeking self-improvement are aided also by the branch. Boys and men in places of detention utilize the services offered by the branch.

A staff of 100 teachers is employed at the office in Edmonton. They prepare all lessons and mark the exercises submitted by students. Majority of the teachers are employed on a part time basis, from November until May.

Written exercises covering two-weeks studies are submitted by the students. When these are marked they are returned to the students with suggestions in order to further aid them with their courses.

Results obtained by correspondence students in grade IX and XII departmental examinations are equal to those of classroom students. This year correspondence students captured seven of 16 prizes in creative writing open to all Alberta students. They have often received the Governor-General medals awarded to students obtaining highest standings in their respective areas on Grade IX examinations.

In addition to a full course in academic subjects the school offers courses in business law and bookkeeping. It is planned to have a course in shorthand next year.

The branch has sent courses to students in South America, Bermuda, Sweden, Germany and other countries. These students were children of missionaries and businessmen who desired to have their children continue their education after moving from Alberta.

To commemmorate their silver jubilee the Correspondence School Branch has published a booklet. The publication features writings, sketches and paintings submitted by correspondence students.

Audio-Visual Aids Branch Provides Educational Films

The Audio-Visual Aids Branch serves the schools of the Province by supplying carefully selected visual aids, namely, films and filmstrips. Professional information necessary for effective classroom use of the aids also is provided.

It is estimated that 73,290 students in 2,443 classrooms have viewed sound films supplied by the branch during this year. In addition 5,670 students in 189 classrooms have been served by silent films, and filmstrips supplied to 1,295 classrooms were seen by 38,850 students.

Requests for services offered by the branch have increased at a tremendous rate since the branch's inception in 1945. In 1948-49 circulation figure for films was 19,778 compared with 4,365 in 1945-46. Last year 29,914 requests were received for films while the actual number of shipments registered totalled 19,978.

The branch has a large library of sound films, silent films and filmstrips covering a good variety of topics in the Alberta school curriculum. These are available for use in the classroom free, except for transportation charges, to any school in the Province. The library includes 1,362 sound films, 555 silent films and 1,459 filmstrips.

Work conducted by the branch involves three main phases: selection of films and filmstrips suitable for use in schools—circulation of materials to schools—and the dissemination of information and guidance to teachers regarding proper use of materials.

Most of the films are purchased by the department of education. The National Film Board has deposited films in the branch on extended loan. Each year some films and filmstrips, produced for commercial sponsors, are made available to the branch.

The branch is advised by a screening committee. During this year the committee has screened and reported on approximately 155 motion picture subjects. This includes films sent by commercial companies to be examined for purchase. Included in the screening also are films sent by the National Film Board and the department of extension, University of Alberta, to be assessed for school use.

Films are purchased from among those highly recommended by the committee. Only films meeting standards of technical quality, authenticity, and correlation with the Alberta school program are recommended by the committee.

A Very Merry Christmas
and a
Happy New Year
to all the readers of
"Within Our Borders"

Storehouse of Facts, Figures

A wealth of information on the make-up, activities and duties of various departments of the Alberta Government is provided in a booklet entitled, "Our Provincial Government", and which has been prepared by the Department of Education.

What democracy means to us—history of the Alberta government—administration of laws—and explanation of some laws are dealt with in the booklet.

Cabinet ministers, M.L.A.'s and government officials, are listed. The publication also lists pamphlets, maps and films, available from the various departments.

Every department of the government co-operated to prepare material for the booklet. It is designed to acquaint its readers with the system employed by the Provincial government in serving the people of Alberta.

In particular, the booklet is for the students in the junior high school. These students are studying the project "Our Provincial Government" in the community economics course.

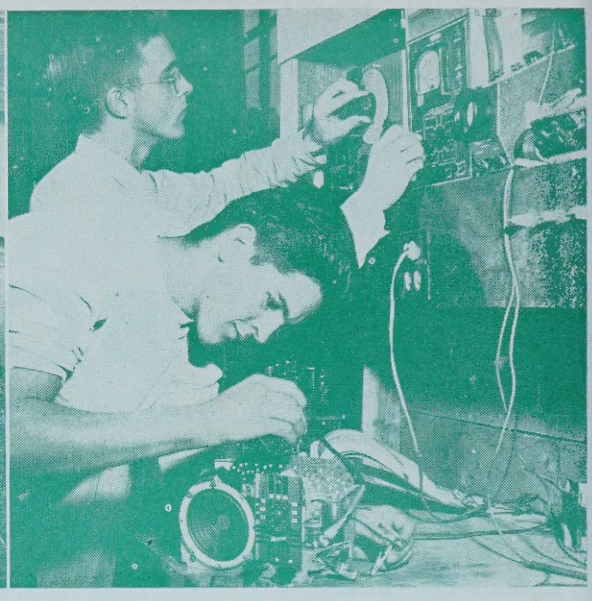
The booklet may be purchased for a cost of 35 cents. Send requests to the School-Book Branch, Department of Education, 104 ave., and 121 st., Edmonton.

"Within Our Borders" is a publication designed to acquaint the people of the Province with the administration and services of the Alberta Government.

It is believed the many and varied services of the Government will be effective in the degree they are known and used. Any material used is for immediate republication.

Correspondence concerning the publication should be addressed to the Deputy Minister, Department of Economic Affairs, Legislative Buildings, Edmonton.

Agriculture student, Don Comfort, Red Deer, inspects day-old litter of pigs.



Donald Comis left and Edward Berg, both of Red Deer repair a radio during a shop course.

Red Deer's Experiment In Education

800 City and Rural Students Test a Three-Semester System and Conduct "Real-Life" Education Projects

The Red Deer Composite High School is an expirement in education and the house of learning for more than 800 city and rural students.

The school was begun in 1947 when Red Deer School Division No. 35 purchased a number of former army buildings for a nominal cost from the Provincial Government. Today the replacement value of the buildings and equipment is placed at $1,000,000. Complete academic and commercial courses are offered at the institution. Comprehensive training in farming and mechanical shop work is a feature of the school's program. Night Classes for commercial and shop courses are provided also.

Forty of the 57 Alberta school divisions are represented at the school operated by Red Deer School Division No. 35. Approximately 565 students are enrolled at the Composite High School while 270 intermediate students from the City of Red Deer School are enrolled for shop and household economics.

Students from Ontario, Saskatchewan, British Columbia and Alberta are registered at the school. Alberta students come from points as widespread as centres at the United States border in the south, and 100 miles north of Peace River in the north.

Experiment Conducted

At this school the three semester system is being tried for the first time in Canada. Under this plan the student studies only two subjects for a three-month period then writes the departmental examinations. If the student's examinations are successful he or she will study two different subjects for the next semester. Two more subjects will be studied for the final semester.

This system gives farm students an opportunity to help with the harvesting and threshing then begin classes at the start of a new semester in December. The three-semester plan is on trial for one year. Results obtained by students studying under this plan will determine whether it will be continued or abandoned.

The academic program at the school is conducted in the conventional classroom manner. However practical training is emphasized during agriculture, shop, and household economics courses. Students do not "toy" with the subject but actually work on beneficial projects.

Practical Projects

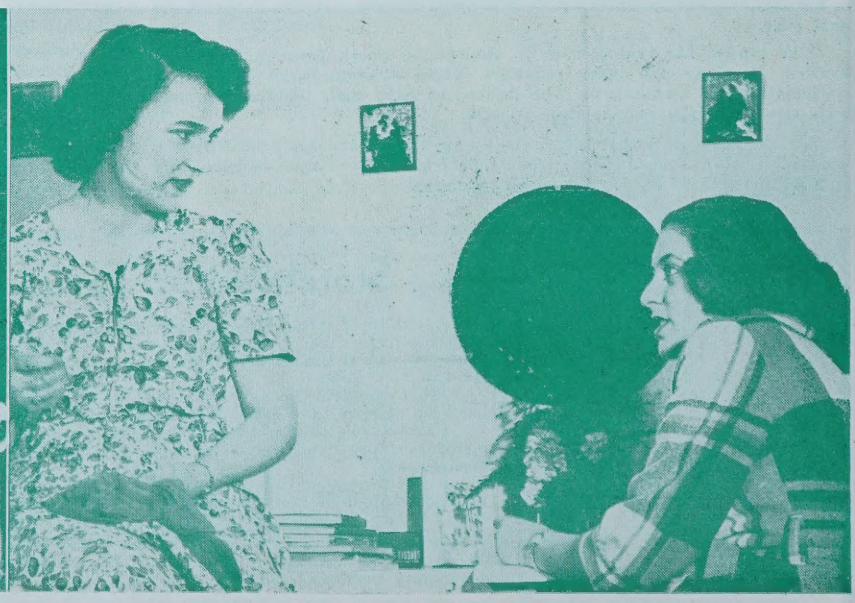
Shop students installed the service entrance bank of switches, the entire lighting and power system for the work shops. This work was done for approximately $1,000 while the lowest contract bid was $5,800. A construction project of the woodwork class is the skating rink and dressing rooms. Materials for this job were purchased from the student's canteen fund. A short wave radio station has been constructed by the electrical class and an amateur radio club formed.

The well equipped work shop affords students the opportunity to gain practical experience with modern equipment. Many of the tools and appliances in the workshops have been built by the boys. Shop trainees do not construct merely working models. Recently they have been making pipes and other metal equipment of various types from commercial plumbers and metal workers. Officials of the school expressed the belief that shop is among the most valuable training for farm boys.

Three Way Program

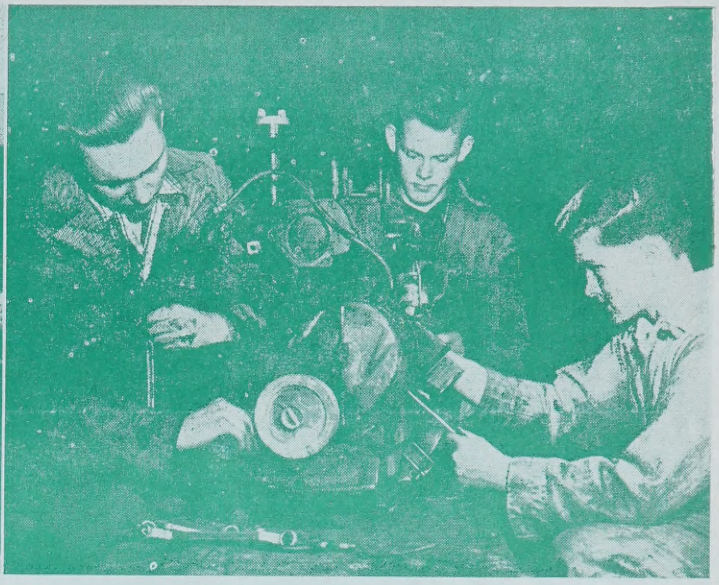
To train students in subjects most closely related to the economy of the district is one of the aims of the school's program. Many of the trainees

The school basketball team holds regular work-outs.



Kay Newton left, of Penhold, mends stockings while Phyllis Scott, also of Penhold writes a letter home.

Keith Haise left, Penhold and Alan Russell of Eckville study together in a dormitory.



Practical experience is gained by Laurence Pixley left, of Innisfail, Chester Black, Red Deer; and Grover "Skip" Hampton of Rawley working on an engine during Automotive course.

are from rural areas, therefore, the agriculture course is one of the school's features. The agriculture course is a three-way program requiring co-operation of student, father and instructor. Plant science and animal science are the two divisions of this subject. Classroom study and research, individual and group projects are conducted.

When a boy has enrolled for agriculture he immediately takes his instructor to visit his father's farm.After discussing a farm problem such as soil erosion, raising beef cattle, or developing registered seed, the trio agree upon a project to be conducted at the farm. Boys who live great distances from Red Deer work on projects at the school. Two boys from the Peace River district are planning and supervising the layout for the farm plant at the school.

In the classroom the boy studies theory relative to the farm problem. Next he plans a course of research and reaches decisions. Then he designs a plan to conduct the project on the farm. When father, son, and instructor, have adopted a plan the boy signs a legal agreement with his father for the lease of land required for the project.

Visit Outstanding Farms

Animal science includes all phases of judging and breeding of livestock, feeding, marketing and disease control. To obtain judging experience the students visit farms of outstanding breeders in the community where they inspect and study his herd. There is a small dairy herd at the school. Those taking the agriculture course are responsible for the feeding, cleaning, grooming and milking the herd. In a similar manner the beef herd at the school is handled. The class also works with poultry and swine.

A farm machinery course soon will be included in the school curriculum. Trainees will be given instruction and practical experience in assembly, maintenance, operation and repair, and machinery economy. All implements required for this course will be supplied by various private dealers.

Another unique feature of this institution, that provides courses for both city and rural students, is the dormatory operation. For resident students board and room is provided for $22 monthly for a five-day week. Each student remaining at the school pays an additional $1.25 for week-ends, and $1.50 monthly for complete medical coverage. All meals are served army-cafeteria-style in the mess hall. Two seven-bed sick wards are maintained in the dormatories.

Dormatories Supervised

The girl's dormatory supervised by two matrons, houses 126 girls. A dean and assistant supervisor are responsible for 143 boys living in dormatories.

Reveille is at 7:00 a.m. and lights-out at 10:15 p.m. Lights-out is extended until 11:30 Friday and Saturday evenings. Resident students must observe a study period from six p.m. until eight p.m. five days each week.

Dormatory residents maintain their own rooms, halls and washrooms. Escorts calling on the girls wait in a reception room adjacent to the matron's office.

An important organization of the school is the students' Union. Last year this group conducted business valued at $8,000. Some of the major projects were the school paper and purchase of school sweaters, graduating banquet and dance.

The canteen is operated until May by the graduating class then it is adopted by the grade XI class. A project of the bookkeeping class is to do the accounting for the canteen committee.

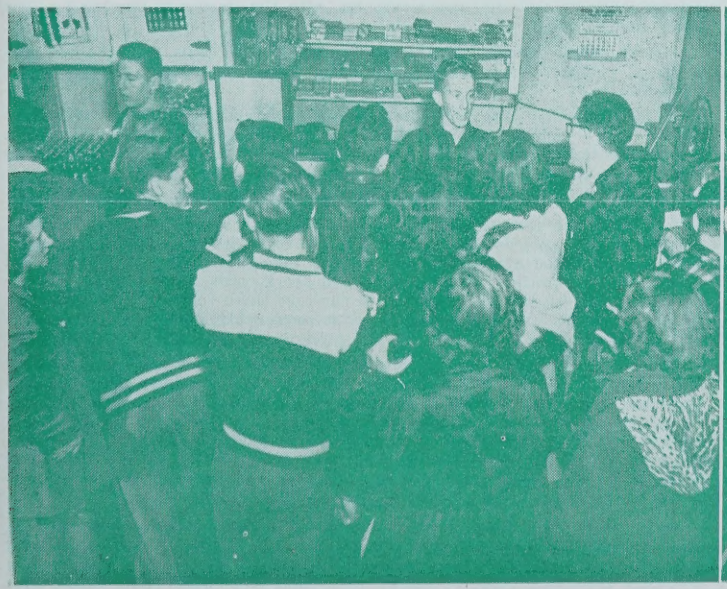
Monthly dances are sponsored by the students council while other dances are promoted by Club 13, a school social organization.

Musical Training Popular

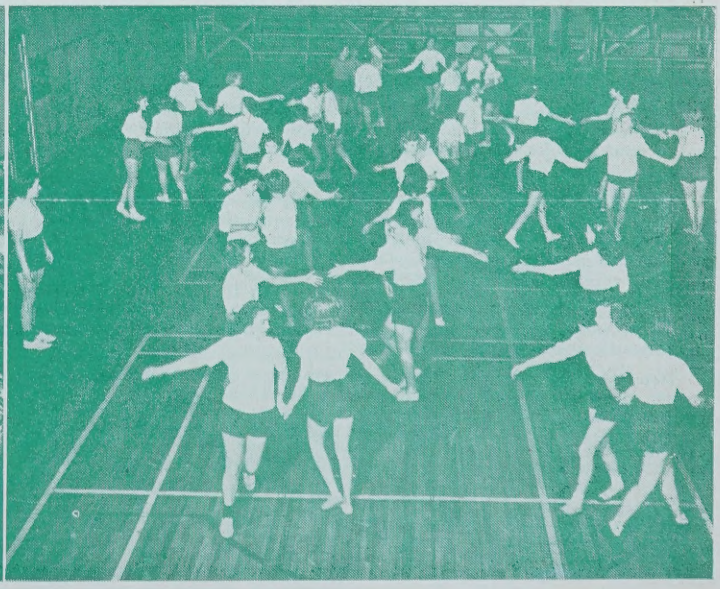
Among the favorite extra curriculum activities are the band, orchestra, and glee club. The large band and orchestra are popular throughout the community. Students participating in these activities are presenting a radio program bi-monthly. The variety programs offer selections of band, orchestra, instrumental and vocal solo renditions. Instruments for the music elective, band and orchestra training are supplied by the school board.

The gymnasium, a former army drill hall, provides the school with fine facilities for indoor athletics. Physical education training includes some gymnastic training but the emphasis is placed on team games. Leadership training, coaching and refereeing is taught also. Often the gymnasium resembles a three-ring circus with basketball, boxing, and tumbling all being staged simultaneously.

Study periods are conducted in the school library and not at the rear of a classroom where a course is in progress. These periods are supervised by the school librarian and reference books are available. For the "free reading" period students have access to good books, magazines, and newspapers.



The canteen is popular at noons and evenings.



Two P.T. classes combine to practice square dancing.

(Alberta Government Photographs—Ross)

A "Within Our Borders" camerman recently visited the Victoria Composite High School in Edmonton and snapped the above scenes during household economics classes. At the left, Margaret Lind, Sheila Wilson and Joyce Wynychuk, are making drapes, part of a study of interior decorating. In the centre scene, Joyce McKinnon, left, and Sheila Hascins test their cooking knowledge. At the right, Yvonne Stickly models a skirt she has just completed. (Alberta Government Photographs—Ross)

Household Economics Program

Popular Course Encourages Family and Personal Development

Household Economics training has been extended greatly throughout Alberta schools during recent years. Many new teaching centres have been opened and others remodelled to meet the demands of increased interest in homemaking education.

More than 9,800 students are registered for household economics courses this year. At the present time there are 127 household economics centres operating in the Province. Twenty-seven of these are in Calgary and Edmonton. Nineteen are on circuits, therefore, one teacher serves several centres. There are 101 instructors in Alberta. Seventy-three are employed full time while 28 teach the course on a part time basis.

A course in needlework is offered in 15 centres where household economics centres have not yet been established. Beside the regular courses in Alberta schools, the Department of Education through the Correspondence Branch, offers the needlework course. At the present time there are seven night school classes held in various parts of the province, chiefly in the field of sewing.

Homelike Surroundings

Some household economics centres are being planned in a number of new schools, and will be in operation in the near future. Every effort is being made to provide rooms which are as homelike as possible, combining efficiency with beauty. In some of the newer centres, the pupils travel by bus from surrounding towns and spend half a day each week in class. This has been made possible by the enlarged school divisions, and as a result more students have the opportunity of taking the courses at a well equipped centre.

The major purpose of the program is education of youth so that they will be enabled to meet and solve the problem of every day living. The emphasis in the program is upon the development in the individual student of attitudes, appreciation, and abilities to meet their present responsibilities and to gain some knowledge of the profession of homemaking.

Study Broadened

Household economics has passed through the successive stages from "domestic science" to its present broader name with all the changes in concept which these terms imply. Through research and study the field has been widened greatly from mere cooking and sewing. Interest in food preparation and service developed the desire to learn about composition of food and its effect on health and well being with the result that nutrition is now an important part of the household economic program. Study of material and making of well constructed and durable clothes has led to the inclusion of simple textile chemistry and dress design.

Home care in co-operation with art, economics and physics now makes interior decoration, family economics and household equipment important areas of study. In order to get value for both money and time spent, budgeting and consumer education is included. The realization of the importance of the individual and of families and their relationships has resulted in the study of child development and guidance, and personal and family relations.

Adequate Program

At the junior and senior high school level emphasis is now placed on providing a well-rounded program of education for home and family living and for personal development. In the larger schools, specialized courses are available for the senior students. As a result household economics classrooms resemble a home, with low screens or partitions serving as walls. These classrooms generally include kitchen areas, a dining area, living area, bedroom area, laundry area and a combined sewing and teaching area, the plan depending on the needs of the community. In larger centres and in the new centres, there are varying combinations of general homemaking rooms with special activity rooms for food preparation, clothing and arts and crafts.

Courses Flexible

When household economics is taught in a school it is compulsory for grades VII and VIII but for high school students it is an elective. Because of the wide variety of available time, space and equipment in the various rural, town and city centres, the courses are flexible, allowing teacher and pupils to arrange a program that fits their needs. For Grade VII and VIII, two to four periods per week are devoted to household economics instruction; while in Grade IX, the time allotted is one half day per week. For the junior high school the integrated system is used because it is felt that in the home centre "pupils work as a family group and their learning is functional because it is accomplished in a realistic environment. The home centre plan provides not only a setting similar to that of the home but also such situations as commonly arise in a home".

The girls take turns working in the various centres. Visitors to a junior high class are met at the door by a student hostess who shows them around the room. The hostess introduces them to her teacher and fellow classmates. In the bedroom area the home nurse is taking another student's temperature or making the bed with carefully mitred corners. In the sewing area is a group of girls working on the varying stages of their sewing project. In the dining area a group of girls will be eating a lunch prepared by the cooks and served by a student waitress.

Conduct Nutrition Groups

Many classes have a nutrition group, usually chosen from the primary classes. These children visit the household economics classroom and are served a nutritious lunch. The children are weighed and measured, and improvement is eagerly watched for by the household economics students. The housekeeper checks groceries, orders supplies and in general helps to keep the room neat and clean. The laundress also is a busy girl, keeping the school linens in good condition. After a tour of inspection visitors often are taken to the living room and served tea with the classroom teacher or some other invited guest.

Most people agree that the integrated system helps to make the girl a poised young woman and acquaints her with a number of the phases of home life

The high school program allows the girl to specialize. Household economics I and II are general courses which require four periods a week. In these classes the teacher and students choose projects or units and must complete a definite number. Home projects are encouraged.

Specialized Training

In the larger centres and in the composite high schools, technical courses, requiring eight periods a week, are offered. If a girl wishes to specialize in sewing and related art and design, she can take three years of "fabrics and dress". If she prefers cooking and food work with some laundry, home-management work and related arts, she can take three years of "homemaking". A course in arts and crafts is offered at some centres and is of interest to both girls and boys.

Students who graduate from high school can take further household economics training at the University of Alberta in Edmonton to become household economics teachers, dietitions in hospitals or commercial firms, district home economists, household economics consultants in research and commerical firms, or in other related fields. Those specializing in dress-making or in restaurant management may take courses at the Provincial Instiute of Technology and Art in Calgary, and general courses can be taken at the agricultural schools at Olds and Vermilion.

Household economics can do much for students and help them through worthwhile activities to build full and satisfying lives. For this reason those in charge of the work are looking forward to the time when every girl in Alberta will have the opportunity of taking Household economics. They believe that by means of general courses even the boys should have an opportunity to study personal and family relationships, child care and nutrition.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2025 with funding from
Legislative Assembly of Alberta - Alberta Legislature Library